

Hewlett Packard Docket No.: 200314191-1

PATENT

Remarks**Claim Objections**

The Patent and Trademark Office (hereinafter "the PTO") objected to claim 1, stating that the second and third occurrences of "a low-voltage power button" should not use the indefinite article "a." The amendments to claim 1 herein were made for the purpose of addressing this objection.

The PTO objected to claims 5-6 and 9-10, stating that "the current power state" lacked antecedent basis. The amendments to claims 5-6 and 9-10 herein were made for the purpose of addressing this objection.

Claim Rejections

The PTO rejected claims 1-2 and 4-8 as allegedly being unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) in view of US patent 6,477,588 ("Yerazunis") and US patent 6,525,926 ("Chen"). Applicant responds as follows:

The PTO has failed to establish prima facie obviousness for at least the reason that Yerazunis and Chen, even in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the elements required by Applicant's claim 1.

The PTO proposes that PDA 150 of Yerazunis corresponds to the "main unit" of Applicant's claim 1, that on-off switch 107 located on docking station 100 of Yerazunis corresponds to a low-voltage power button, and that component 102 of Yerazunis corresponds to Applicant's "corresponding socket or plug" that removably mates with the "first socket or plug" accessible from the exterior of the main unit's enclosure.

But Yerazunis does not teach or suggest that mating component 102 with PDA 150 serves to electrically couple on-off switch 107 to any circuitry within PDA 150 for sensing activity in a low-voltage power button, as would be required by Applicant's claim. Instead, Yerazunis describes

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component 102 as a serial interface that is used for data communications between PDA 150 and a vision system housed inside docking station 100. See, for example, the following excerpts from the reference: "*A serial port and interface 102 is configured to mechanically and electrically connect with the PDA 150.*" Yerazunis at col. 2, line 66 to col. 3, line 1 (emphasis added). "[V]ision applications can be downloaded from a personal computer (PC) 130, or any other computer via the serial interface 102" Yerazunis at col. 3, lines 54-62. "In the case that the PDA memory is insufficient, picture and video objects can be up-loaded to the PC 130 or other type of computer using ... the serial interface 102 when the computer vision system is not in use." Yerazunis at col. 4, lines 46-50. See also Fig. 5 of Yerazunis and the accompanying text.

Indeed, there is no indication in Yerazunis that pressing on-off switch 107 in docking station 100 would or could have any effect on the power state of PDA 150. It would appear instead that on-off switch 107 controls the power state of the vision system located inside docking station 100, and that a power button located on PDA 150 (which is a Palm III Palm Pilot device) would control the power state of the PDA. Chen adds nothing to the deficiency of Yerazunis in this regard.

The combination of Yerazunis and Chen therefore fails to establish prima facie obviousness with respect to Applicant's claim 1. Consequently, claim 1 should be allowed. In addition, each of Applicant's remaining claims depends ultimately from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least this reason. Applicant does not accede to the PTO's characterization of the references with respect to claims 2-12 and reserves the right to rebut them in a future paper should it become necessary or desirable to do so.

Drawings

The drawings that were submitted on 1/30/2004 were informal. Applicant will submit formal replacement drawings in a future paper.

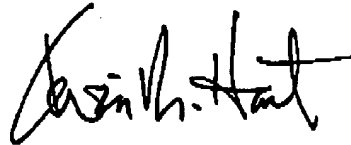
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Conclusion

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits a Notice to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,



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